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Message Text

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10
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /061 W
---------- 108994
R 120307Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6245

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS,TH
SUBJ: CT ATTACK RTA BASE NEAR BAN HUAI KON

1. AT 4:50 A.M. ON APRIL 9, A THAI COMMUNIST ARMED FORCE ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 200 ATTACKED A REINFORCED PLATOON OF THE CAVALRY DIVISION FORWARD, 3RD RTA, AT BAN HUA KON (QB 178650), NAN PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO CAVALARY DIVISION REPORTS, THE CT USED RPG (B-40), GRENADE LAUNCERS, 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLES, AND AK-47S. THE PLATOON SUFFERED 17 KIA AND 24 WIA. ONLY THREE PLATOON MEMBERS ESCAPED INJURY. RTAF GUNSHIP STRIKES WERE PLACED ON THE AREA FROM 8:00A.M. TO 5:00 A.M. AT 11:40 A.M. ONE OF THE HELICOPTERS ATTEMPTING TO EVACUATE WOUNDED RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE CAUSING AN ADDITIONAL THREE RTA WIA AND RETURNED TO NAN. THE CT WITH-DREW FROM ATTACK AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M. ON APRIL 9 AND AT 7:30 P.M., 36 RTA REINFORCEMENTS WERE BROUGHT IN BY HELICOPTER AND THE WOUNDED EVACUATED.

2. ATTACKERS BROKE OFF CONTACT AT AN UNDETERMINED TIME ON APRIL 10. RTA REPORTS REFLECTED 40-50 CT WIA AND 20-30 KIA WITH ONE CT BODY FOUND IN ADDITION TO TWO AK-47S, ONE RPG ROCKET LAUNCER, TWO ROCKETS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MILITARY ARTICLES.

3. ISOC OFFICIALS ADVISE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN
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SEVERAL YEARS THAT CT HAVE ATTACKED REGULAR RTA FORCES IN

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THIS STRENGTH. THEY FEEL THE ATTACK APPEARS TO BE A SHOW OF FORCE AND POSSIBLY AN INDICATOR OF CT INTENT TO MOVE TO MORE CONVENTINAL TYPE MILITARY ACTIVITY.

4. COMMENT: THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE AT A LOCATION ONLY ONE AND A HALF MILES FROM THE LAOS BORDER IN AN AREA LONG UNDER CT INFLUENCE. BAN HUAI KON IS LOCATED NEAR THE EXTREME NORTHERN ARM OF THE UNFINISHED NAP LOOP ROAD. CONSTRUCTION EFFECTIVELY CEASED ON THIS PROJECT FOLLOWING AN ATTACK BY AN ESTIMATED 200 CT ON ITAL-THAI COMPANY CAMP IN NOVEMBER 1974. THE CAVALRY DIVISION HAS ABOUT 20 OF THESE "PATROL BASES" SCATTERED THROUGHOUT NAN PROVINCE WHICH HAVE BEEN IN PLACE SINCE OCTOBER 1974. THESE ISOLATED BASES COULD BE CONSIDERED EASY TARGETS SHOULD THE CT CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH SUCH FORCE STRENGTH. MISSION ESTIMATES PLACE OVER 1,000 ARMED JUNGLE INSURGENTS IN NAN PROVINCE WITH THEIR CONTROLLING HEADQUARTERS BELIEVED LOCATED IN VICINITY OF PHU WAI (QB 3042) APPROXIMATELY 16 MILES SOUTHEAST OF BAN HUAI KON.
MASTERS

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NNN

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